

THE “CONDER” TOKEN COLLECTOR’S JOURNAL

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONDER TOKEN COLLECTOR’S CLUB
Volume XI Number 1 Spring , 2006 Consecutive Issue #39



**MIDDLESEX 925
THE WEXFORD CONNECTION**

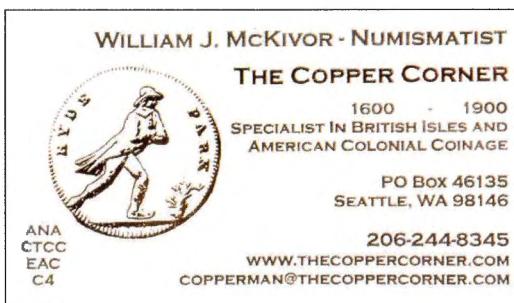
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Durham 2 (Rare)

Image by Gary Siro

INTRODUCTION

MICHAEL GROGAN

REVIEW YOUR EARLY JOURNAL ISSUES

I have undertaken the pleasant project of rereading the Journal beginning with the first issue and am surprised at the great information I had forgotten or underappreciated as a novice collector at the time. The early issues contain articles on proper token care and storage, how bronzed proofs were made, a thorough survey of the token literature, Boulton and Watt, lively correspondence on many topics, detailed studies of individual tokens, historical background, and prices for choice tokens that will make you laugh or cry [depending on when you bought yours]. I suggest that members review their back issues and enjoy this remarkable archive of information.

ARTICLES NEEDED

Rather than my usual request for original member articles for the Journal, which may be getting a bit tiresome, I offer the following by our founder and first editor. Wayne wrote this for issue 6 in 1997 and it could not be better said.

INTRODUCTION

**By Wayne Anderson,
President & Editor**

I never quite know what the next newsletter will contain, I always print all that there is to print. For the next issue all that I know is that I have, the always reliable, Dr. Doty's, and Mr. David S. Brooke's next articles to print, and Mr. R. C. Bell's "Token Tales", along with the advertisements and whatever contributions I can make to the newsletter. I sometimes nervously wonder if these are all I will have to print between the two covers, I like to provide you with approximately 60 pages of reading material each time. I do not receive enough articles to have a backlog of them, so I'm as surprised as anyone with the contents of each issue. I always have faith in our members, and without fail wonderful and scholarly articles begin to appear in my post office box up to the time of the deadline. I know about some of them in advance, but many of them are truly pleasant and exciting surprises. Our newsletters or journals are only as good as you make them. I can put them together and make them look like something, only if you give me the materials and articles to print. So take a shot at one, load me up, and afford me with the luxury of having a good backlog of articles. If we all sow the seeds of information, ideas, and thoughts, we will all glean much knowledge from these journals.

GOOD MONEY PUBLICATION DELAYED

Dr. George Selgin's book, as announced in the last issue, has had a delay in publication. This is not unusual in the world of book publishing and we will let members know when his educational and entertaining work will be available for purchase. Meanwhile, members are welcome to contact Dr. Selgin about the book at "Department of Economics, Terry College of Business, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-6254" or Selgin@uga.edu

ON THE COVER

Gregg Silvis explores the mysterious story of Middlesex 925 and its undertype Wexford token in his extensively illustrated article. Gregg follows Waters' trail to a different conclusion about the "workman's freak" tokens.

From the president's desk...

Just a quick reminder to everyone to start thinking about planning to attend the Conder Token Collectors Club annual meeting, to take place this year in Denver, Colorado. This is of course in concert with the American Numismatic Association's annual World's Fair of Money, being held August 16-19 of 2006. More information is available at the ANA's website, www.money.org.

It is still quite early to nail down a specific date and time for our annual meeting, but tradition has it occurring on a Saturday night. I am hopeful that with Denver being a bit closer to the middle of the country, our club will be very well represented by membership from both coastlines.

Last years meeting took place at the Moscone Center in downtown San Francisco where the 2005 ANA World's Fair of Money was being hosted. I was very fortunate to be able to attend, and was thrilled to see so many members at the meeting, and at the dinner afterwards. We did finally end up at a somewhat campy Chinese restaurant off a small side street after a bit of a search, but the food was very good, and the camaraderie was excellent. I believe that we were there for over three hours, with everyone animated and engaged with each other on a wide variety of topics. I even recall overhearing something about coins! It was my first ever annual CTCC meeting, and because I had such a good time with everyone, I am going to make every effort to attend this years meeting as well.

Some of the people who were there included (if the name is underlined, it means they joined the club for dinner after the meeting: Larry Johnson, Bill McKivor, Scott and Lisa Loos, Frank VanValen, Jerry Bobbe, Howard Wheeler, Michael Wehner, Candice Kagan, and Eric Von Klinger from Coin World. I know I have missed names, for which I apologize. Please take this opportunity to let the club hear from you, and your thoughts on the meeting and the dinner afterwards.

The truth is that I was so excited to be at the meeting that I forgot to ask someone to take pictures, and I misplaced my notes on the meeting which also included the list of names that I had written down: I am determined to make a better showing in Denver this August!!

Earlier this year, the executive committee voted in the affirmative to add a subscription to the British Numismatic Journal and to Spinks Numismatic Circular. These will be held in our clubs library, and will be made available to all members upon request. A second vote in the affirmative was to allow Gary Siro to offer his Token image CD for free, with only a \$5 shipping & handling charge to all paid up two year NEW memberships. Thanks to Gary for a clever and generous way to bring in new memberships and to Founding Member Bill McKivor who just signed on a new member for two years with this offer.

A sincere Thank-You as always goes out to all of our volunteers who make the club work so well: Gary Siro, Harold Welch, Scott Loos, John Whitmore, and our webmaster and editor extraordinaire Mike Grogan, who is also putting together a proposal for our 2006 club medal, and to our members who willingly share their hard work and passion in the form of articles for printing in the CTCJ. Special thanks also to our advertisers and to our membership, who's financial support keeps our club solidly in the black, which should keep all of us feeling in the pink. Here's to yet another very successful year in 2006!

Sincerely,
Gregg Moore

Tokens Portray Market Crosses

By R.C. Bell
Newcastle Upon Tyne, England

The focal point of a town in 18th century Britain was its market cross. Few have survived the demands of modern traffic control, but four are preserved for posterity on tradesmen's tokens.

The old Coventry Cross was built in the middle of the 16th century on the site of an older one which was removed in 1510. It was five feet in diameter at the base and diminished pyramidically in three stories, reaching a total height of 57 feet, and containing 18 niches for figures. The canopy was adorned with statuary; and pillars, pinnacles, and arches supported a variety of figures and flags bearing the arms of England or the rose of Lancaster. The statues included those of St. Peter, St. James the Minor, St. Christopher, St. Michael and St. George, together with those of Henry I, Richard I, John, Henry III, Edward I, Edward III, Richard II, Henry V, and Henry VI.

In 1669 it was repaired, beautified and gilded, and it is said that it was so bright and beautiful that it was almost impossible to look at it in full sunshine. On every pinnacle of the lowest story a beast or fowl held a fan; and on the pinnacles of the second was the image of a naked boy with a target and a fan.

The cross was erected through the will of Sir William Hollis, a former Lord Mayor of London. During the 18th century the lovely structure was allowed to fall into decay, and it was finally removed in 1771, some 20 years before

the issue of Reynolds' beautiful commercial coin.



Halfpenny token of Reynolds and Co., ribbon weavers in Coventry. DH Warks 249 by Gary Siro

The superb market cross in Chichester was the gift of Bishop Storey in 1501. The grant is preserved in the city archives and reads:

“This indenture made the xxvijth day of Decembre the xvijth yere of the Reigne of Kyng Harry the vijth Betwene the right Reverend Fader yn god Edwarde Bysshopp of Chichestre on the one partie, and Thomas vulgar maire of the Cite of Chichester and Burgesez of the same on the other partie Witnessith that it is Covenanted Condescended and aggred betwene the said parties yn maner and forme Folowyng.

“That is to say that where the said Reverend Fader hath made as well yn thonor of god and yn especiall to the socoure and Comfort of the poore peple there as to the Wurshipp of the said Cite, a Crosse sett and Founded yn the Midde of the said Cite upon the grounde of the said maire and Burgesez For the which grounde the said Reverend Fader hat gyven xli of lawfull money of englond

For dischargyng of theym the which be bounden by Obligacion to the Dean and Chapitre For the purchesyng of Certeyn londes to the yerely valwe of xij s iiij above all Charges unto the said Dean and Chapitre Forwhich the said maire and Burgesez graunten to the said Reverend Fader all theire right and interest yn there said grounde.

“And over that graunte that they nor theire Successours shall not From henceforth Clayme nor Demaund eny interest or title of and yn the said grounde nor interrupte vexe nor troble eny of the poore peple that shall here after stand or sell eny Chafer [Chafer equals wares] Within the said Crosse.

“And over that graunten that they shall not from henceforth make nor suffer no housez bothez Shoppez nor stallez to be bilded or set Within or upon the said grounde ne Within the said Crosse nor nyghe adioynyng to the same to the hurte or inpayng of the said Crosse ne to the lett or dist’baunce of the poore peple to sell theire Chafer there, ne take no toll nor oder duets of noo person that shall stand or sell eny Chafer Within the said Crosse.

“In Witnes Whereof the parties abovesaid to thise indenturs enterchaungeable have putte theire Sealez The Day and yere afore rehersed.”



Halfpenny of Dally and sons, drapers in Chichester Sussex 15 by Gary Siro

The 50 foot high cross was built of Caen stone and consisted of an open

arcaded octagon with buttress piers at the angles terminating in finials carrying iron standards. A lierne vault with carved bosses at the intersections of the ribs sprang from a massive circular central shaft.



Silver shilling token of James Wright Jr., merchant in Dundee, Scotland by Gary Siro

Each side of the building comprised a four centered arch set beneath an ogle-headed crocketed hood with a tympanum enclosing a bishop’s miter, the hoods terminating in carved angles bearing shields. On either side of each hood were two rows of panels with cinquefoiled heads, and on and on four sides were carved and canopied niches. Beneath a parapet of quatrefoils was a band of rosettes carved with animals, foliage and shields. On the corners of the angle buttresses were large shields, and from each buttress sprang a crocketed flying buttress forming a crown topped by an octagonal cupola. The iron standards carried gilded vanes painted with heraldic ensigns, and the topmost vane bore the Royal Arms of England.

In 1724 an incongruous square turret was added to house a clock presented to the city by Lady Farington, but in 1746 the turret was replaced by a new clock with stone settings as depicted on the token of Dally and Son. In 1808 a Market House was opened in North street, and in the following year the cross was railed in, since it no longer served as a free mart for the poor.

About the middle of the 13th century a market cross was erected in Dundee near the Seagate, and in the 15th

century it was transferred to the west end of High street. By the middle of the 16th century the structure was so weathered that it was taken down and a new cross, illustrated on James Wright's private token, was built by John Mylne, Her Majesty's Master Mason for Scotland.

It was an ornate octagonal structure, surrounded by a base reached by a flight of six steps. On one side was a door with a staircase leading onto the arched battlemented roof, from the center of which a tall slender stone shaft rose upwards to be surmounted by a unicorn, bearing between its forefeet a shield on which was carved the Scottish lion. Near the top on one side of the column were the city arms and the motto DEI DONUM and 1586—the year of the cross's erection.

On market days farmer's wives sat on the steps and sold dairy produce, eggs and poultry, and exchanged gossip of the town and country. Public proclamations were made from the battlements; and on the king's birthday the provost and magistrates passed in procession from the Tollbooth to the cross and on the roof pledged His Majesty's health in bumpers of wine; while the assembled citizens shared in the celebration as the rainwater channels terminating in gargoyles around the bartizan were filled with ale. Men and women jostled and fought to fill pails, cogs and pitchers with the frothing beverage, a rowdy prelude a carousel terminating in a wild orgy.

The cross also served as the place of public punishment for petty offenders, who were condemned to the jougs, the stocks or the pillory, while on fine evenings citizens met to discuss the events of the day, and lovers kept faith

with their beloved. As Dundee increased in size the market cross became an obstruction in the principal thoroughfare, and was removed in 1777.

The platform and octagonal tower were carted away, the best stones being incorporated in other buildings and the rest disposed of as rubbish. The stone shaft was placed beside the Old Steeple, where it remained in oblivion for many years, and then was transferred to the southwest corner of the grounds of a church in Nethergate.



Halfpenny of James Conder, linen draper and token collector of Ipswich DH Suffolk 35 by Gary Siro

James Conder, a linen draper of Tavern street, Ipswich was an ardent collector of tokens and his "Arrangement of Provincial Coins, Tokens and Medalets" published in Ipswich in 1798, was the standard work on the subject for nearly 100 years. The preface was written by his friend, James Wright Junior of Dundee, and it is interesting to note that these leading collectors each chose a market cross to grace their own tokens. The obverse of Conder's piece depicted the old market cross on he rotunda in Cornhill, Ipswich, which was built at the beginning of the 16th century and was removed in 1812.

What Lies Beneath Middlesex 925?

Gregg A. Silvis

Dalton & Hamer include the Middlesex 925 token under the “Miscellaneous” heading of the Middlesex section. Given a rarity rating of “scarce,” this rather non-descript token has nothing in particular to recommend it, an uninspired depiction of a ram on the obverse and yet another “ship sailing” on the reverse. Dalton & Hamer are able to provide no details on this token. Writing in 1906, Waters informs that “these rare tokens do not appear in Pye or the ‘Virtuoso’s Companion.’ Without doubt they were struck for a general circulation, and not by any single person in particular.”¹ On the surface collectors are left with a rather uninteresting piece. Underneath, however, lies a much more interesting token.



Dalton & Hamer plate of Middlesex 925

In 1955 Waters writes in his *Notes on Eighteenth Century Tokens*, “Middlesex 925 to 927. London, etc. Nothing is known of these tokens. An example of No. 925 has been reported by Mr. S. C. Tully, of San Jose, California, which has been struck over a specimen of the Irish Token issued at Enniscorthy, probably [Wexford] No. 3. This latter token was made at the Soho Factory. I take the overstruck token to be a workman’s freak made after 1800 but this does not

¹ Arthur W. Waters, *Notes Gleaned from Contemporary Literature, &c. Respecting the Issuers of the Eighteenth Century Tokens Struck for the County of Middlesex Arranged According to Atkin’s Tradesmen’s Tokens*. (Simmons and Waters: Leamington Spa, 1906): 56.

indicate that No. 925 to 927 were made at the Soho Factory, as they are all poor examples of die sinking and quite unlike any of the tokens made by Boulton and Watt of Soho.”² Bell repeats this information in his *Specious Tokens*.³ Including the above information from Waters and Bell, the Tully token was offered for sale in 1999 by Jerry Bobbe.⁴ There it was listed as “925 Miscellaneous – Good VF, struck over Wexford 3....” The token subsequently appeared as lot 1477 from the David E. Litrenta Collection in the March 16, 2005 Dix Noonan Webb auction where it was there described “Uncertain locality, Halfpenny, ram, rev. ship, 7.87g/6h (DH 925; Waters p. 18, and Bell, ST p. 229, this piece). Overstruck on a Halfpenny of R. Woodcock of Enniscorthy, fine and unusual....” The author acquired the Tully token in this auction.



Tully-Bobbe-Litrenta Middlesex 925

When rotated as above, the Wexford undertype is clearly visible on both the obverse and reverse of the Tully-Bobbe-Litrenta token. (See enlarged illustrations below). The token was overstruck such that the obverse of the Middlesex token was overstruck on the obverse of the Wexford token. The top and bottom of the obverse display vestiges of the raised oval from the undertype. In addition, the PAY

² Arthur W. Waters, *Notes on Eighteenth Century Tokens*. (B.A. Seaby, Ltd: London, 1954): 18

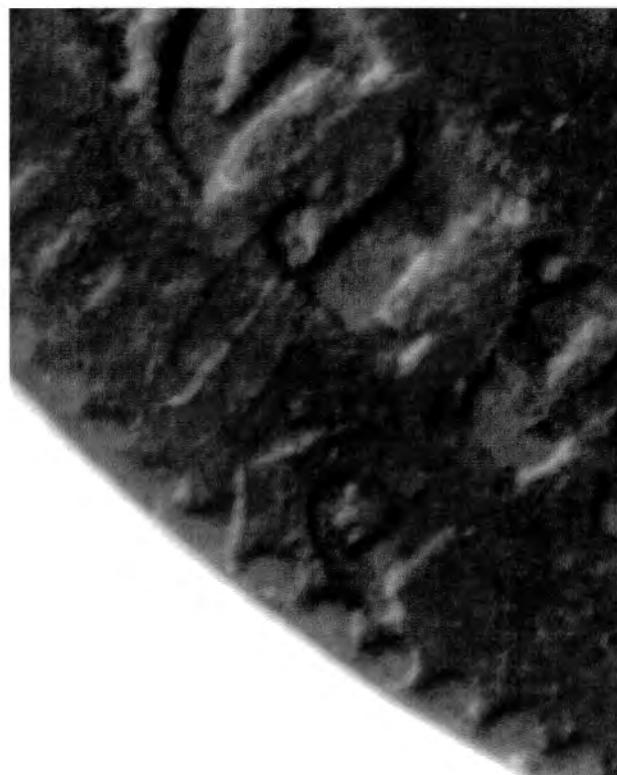
³ Robert Charles Bell, *Specious Tokens and Those Struck for General Circulation, 1784-1804*. (Corbitt & Hunter, Ltd: Newcastle-upon-Tyne): 229.

⁴ *The Token Examiner*, List #22, Summer 1999, p.5.

of **PAYABLE** is visible at 7:00 and the initial **R** of **R.W. ENNISCORTHY** at 2:00. As these elements are in highest relief on the Wexford token, they were not completely obliterated in the restriking process.



Lower obverse of Tully-Bobbe-Litrenta Token showing the raised oval from the Wexford undertype



PAY of PAYABLE

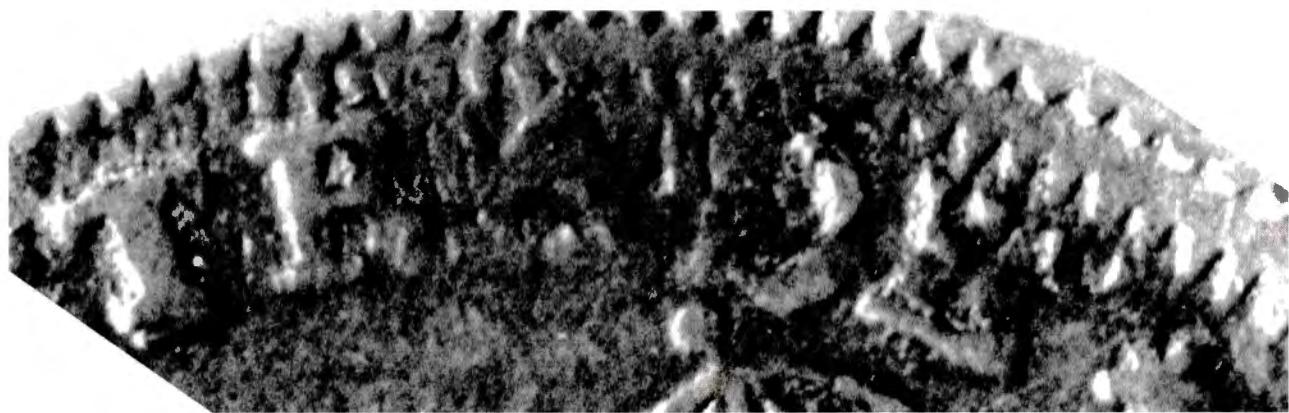


Initial R of R.W. ENNISCORTHY

The reverse of the Middlesex 925 also shows the outline of the shield as well as the **A.D. 1800.** from the reverse of the Wexford undertype. Also, note the doubling of the denticles in the latter illustration.



Outline of the shield



A.D. 1800. and doubled denticles

It proved impossible to confirm the exact Wexford undertype. Attributinal elements for Wexford 1-4 include the number and length of lines in the portcullis and the design of the serifs of N, all elements of the obverse. The reverse is the same for all four varieties. Being centrally located on the token in rather shallow relief, after the restriking process nothing at all remains of the portcullis. None of the three N's (PAYABLE AT THE BANK OF R.W. ENNISCORTHY) are sufficiently visible for identification. Waters' supposition that the undertype was "probably Wexford 3" would seem to be based on rarity alone, for Dalton & Hamer consider Wexford 1-2 rare, with Wexford 3-4 listed as common.

The only additional information that the author was able to ascertain concerned S.C. Tully. The 1940-1997 California Death Index lists a Syl C. Tully (1891-1963) who died in Santa Clara, California, only a few miles from San Jose. The U.S. Social Security Death Index lists a Syl C. Tully (1922-1999) also of San Jose, presumably the son of the former Syl C. Tully. Jerry Bobbe unfortunately had no information as to which Tully had been the owner of the token. Had the author not more closely examined the Dalton & Hamer illustration of Middlesex 925, there the story would have ended.

A quick glance at the Dalton & Hamer plate showed what appeared to be two curved scratches across the ram. Given the general high quality of the tokens used for illustration, this seemed rather unusual. A closer examination with a magnifying glass of the original edition revealed that these were not scratches, but, when rotated properly, actually the outlines of the shield from the reverse undertype of a Wexford 1-4 token.



Dalton & Hamer plate of Middlesex 925, rotated to better show undertype

The Dalton & Hamer token was overstruck such that the obverse of the Middlesex token was struck over the *reverse* of the Wexford. Further scrutiny of the Middlesex obverse showed denticles from the undertype as well. Apparent on the reverse were the letters **PA** of **PAYABLE** as well as outlines of the raised oval from the obverse of the underlying Wexford token.



D&H Middlesex 925 showing shield



D&H Middlesex 925 showing tops of PA and doubled denticles

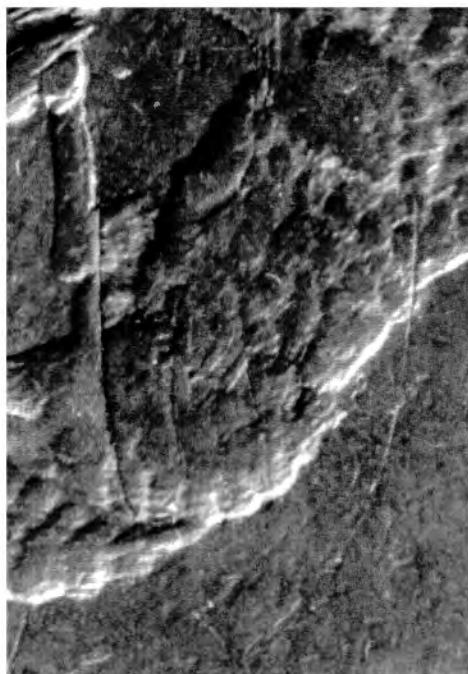


D&H Middlesex 925 showing top of raised oval

Waters had missed the fact that the Dalton & Hamer illustration of Middlesex 925 showed clear traces of Wexford undertype. The implications for other Middlesex 925 tokens was intriguing.

Shortly after the March, 2005 DNW auction, the author purchased another Middlesex 925, this from David Stuart of Alnwick British & Colonial Coins & Tokens. This token was graded as “VF+” and was described as “overstruck on an Enniscorthy Bank halfpenny (D&H Wexford 3/4) with some of the original detail clearly visible.”⁵ The token was very accurately described, for a significant portion of undertype was indeed visible. This token was restruck as the Dalton & Hamer token, i.e., obverse over reverse undertype.

The obverse of the Stuart Middlesex token shows the outline of the shield with portions of the RW monogram visible. The text **A.D. 1800.** is also visible.



Stuart Middlesex 925 showing
shield with portions of RW monogram



Stuart Middlesex 925 showing the outlines of **A.D. 1800.**

⁵ <http://www.abccoinsandtokens.com/DH.Middlesex.0925.html>

The reverse shows **PAYABLE** and portions of the raised oval.

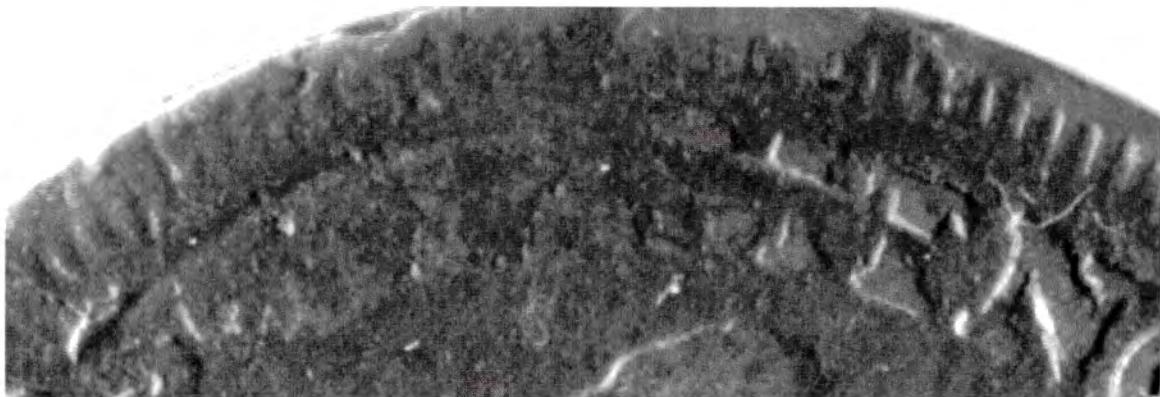


Stuart Middlesex 925 showing outlines of the letters of **PAYABLE**. The undertype letter **P** is to the left of **AND**.

A final example of Middlesex 925 was recently acquired from David E. Litrenta, now of Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania. While of a lower grade than the previous two examples, it too displayed significant portions of Wexford undertype. It was struck in the same manner as the Tully specimens, obverse over obverse undertype. Once again, portions of **PAYABLE** and the raised oval were visible on the obverse. The reverse shows the outline of the shield:



Litrenta Middlesex 925
showing outlines of shield



Litrenta Middlesex 925 showing top of raised oval from undertype

A specimen of Middlesex 925a was also acquired for comparison purposes. Struck from the same dies as 925, the edge of Middlesex 925a is lettered “**PAYABLE IN DUBLIN OR BALLYMURTAGH.**” However, neither the Dalton & Hamer plate token nor the author’s example of 925a shows any traces of undertype. These four tokens were also weighed and measured as follows:

<u>Specimen</u>	<u>Weight</u> (in grams)	<u>Diameter</u> (in mm)
Tully-Bobbe-Litrenta	7.86	29.1-29.8
Stuart	7.32	29.3-29.9
Litrenta	7.71	29.2-29.5
Middlesex 925a	7.65	27.4-27.9
Wexford 1-4 standard	7.82 ⁶	28.6

Richard Doty points out that the Wexford 1-4 tokens as products of the Soho Mint were produced in collars. Due to their reduced weight and resulting thinness of the flans, the edges were not lettered.⁷ The Middlesex 925’s were clearly produced without collars resulting in finished products that were no longer perfectly round as a result of the restriking process. The Middlesex 925a token above was of a smaller diameter but roughly the same weight as the 925’s. The resulting slightly thicker flan allowed at least for some attempt to letter the edge. Doty states that the Wexford 1-4 tokens were produced by Matthew Boulton in two orders. The first order of 118,716 tokens was shipped to Ireland on February 7, 1801. The second and much

⁶ These tokens were struck at fifty-eight to the pound. Richard Doty, *The Soho Mint & the Industrialization of Money*. (British Numismatic Society: London, 1998): 322.

⁷ Richard Doty, “Tokens of the Times: Matthew Boulton’s Efforts for Enniscorthy,” “*Conder*” Token Collector’s Journal 5 (June 15, 2000): 78.

larger order of 536,588 tokens left Soho on February 20, 1801. Total production amounted to 655,304 tokens.⁸ Therefore, examples of Middlesex 925 with Wexford 1-4 undertype could only have been produced after February, 1801.

The Middlesex 925 token shares another connection to the Irish series of tokens. The reverse of Middlesex 925 is the same as reverses of both Dublin 6 and Dublin 230, a fact not noted by Dalton & Hamer. Dublin 6, a counterfeit, is a crude copy of Dublin 5. A convoluted section of mules and counterfeits, labeled “Varieties” by Dalton & Hamer, encompasses Dublin 227 through 234. The obverse of Dublin 230 is an attempt at the 1792 Camac Hibernia obverse. The obverse of Dublin 234, “a bishop’s head to right,” is the same as the obverse of Dublin 6. It would seem that the same hand was involved in the production of Middlesex 925, Dublin 6, Dublin 230 and Dublin 234.

While four examples can in no way constitute a statistically significant sample, it seems more than mere coincidence that all four of these Middlesex 925 tokens show clear signs of Wexford 1-4 undertype. It is hoped that this discussion and the accompanying illustrations will encourage other collectors to examine their specimens of Middlesex 925 to identify other examples with Wexford undertype. The most obvious undertype features are the raised oval and the outline of the shield. Rather than the overstruck token being a “workman’s freak” as described by Waters, given the evidence it is more likely the case that most, if not all, Middlesex 925 tokens were overstruck on Wexford 1-4 tokens.



Wexford 4

⁸ Doty (1998): 323.

The Library

PROVINCIAL COPPER COINS, OR TOKENS (EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH CENTURIES)

Give a man a reasonable hobby
and
you do something to promote his intellectual and moral welfare.

Welcome collectors of rare coins, bibliophiles, historians and numismatists, compilers of curiosities and excavators of exonumia, to a new series of articles that will begin appearing regularly in your Conder Token Collector Club Journal under the above heading. The writing is transcribed directly from articles written by Richard Thomas Samuel that were originally published in *The Bazaar, Exchange and Mart, and Journal of the Household* between December 29, 1880 and August 28, 1889.

We sincerely hope this new series of articles will bring pleasure to one and all.

The publication of these fascinating notes by Richard Samuel reflects the enthusiasm and commitment of Harold Welch of St. Paul, Minnesota. He located the dusty volumes of *The Bazaar, Exchange and Mart* in the stacks at the University of Minnesota. (This is apparently the only complete set of this publication available in an American library.) He carefully copied all the pages with information on tokens. Then he developed the Concordance between the numbers used by Samuel to designate tokens and the numbers later assigned by Dalton and Hamer in their major work on the series.

The articles by Samuel underscore the long-standing popularity of the token series among collectors. Conflict, speculation, historical context—all this is provided in his notes. For most collectors of the series, familiarity with Samuel has been via the books published by R.C. Bell on 18th and 19th Century tokens. In Appendix II of his work, *Commercial Coins, 1787-1804*, Bell provides a brief biography of Samuel.

Full pages have been copied from the Bazaar. Many topics other than tokens are covered in these pages. Along with Samuel's work, these pages provide a fascinating view of life and collecting in late 19th century England. (from introduction and comments) Allan Davisson (publisher) January 1994

There were 100 copies of this compilation printed with copies 1 – 90 being hardbound and 91 – 100 in soft cover. These are wonderful books just chock full of very interesting articles, as well as being a treasure trove of token numismatics. My copy has provided me countless hours of reading enjoyment, and I would not part from it.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our editor Mike Grogan who will be overseeing the project, to Harold Welch and Allan Davisson for their unqualified permission to use this material, and to Gary Siro our new publisher, who has made available to the project his extensive collection of Token photographs.

Gregg Moore, president, Conder Token Collectors Club

The Library

PROVINCIAL COPPER COINS, OR TOKENS
(EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH CENTURIES)

Give a man a reasonable hobby
and
you do something to promote his intellectual and moral welfare.

The following is taken directly from the somewhat lengthy introduction, this first part of it dated December 29, 1880. The format, verbiage, and punctuation is reproduced as closely as is possible in order to retain the flavor of the times.

Those who have paid any attention to the provincial or token coinage of this country will generally admit that it is far from being an uninteresting subject; while many who are unacquainted with it will find in the collection of these coins a recreation not wholly devoid of instruction. Coins have been well termed "the irrefragable muniments of history"; and coin collecting is a hobby by no means to be despised. We are those who believe that a hobby is desirable from more than one point of view. Give a man a reasonable hobby and you do something to promote his intellectual and moral welfare. The professional man finds in the pursuit of it a relaxation from the care and worry of his every-day life; and the humbler toiler an additional incentive to that home-love which is a counteraction to dissipation and vice. Ladies also derive pleasure and benefit from having a hobby. Regarded, moreover, as a mere investment, coin collecting is a comparatively safe hobby; and, if judiciously managed, the return of the money expended may be pretty confidently looked for at any time, if required - possibly with interest. The greatest risk to which it is exposed, apart from occasional fluctuation in value, is robbery; but with copper tokens this contingency is reduced to a minimum, and while he who pursues china collecting, for instance, is liable at any moment to get a priceless specimen broken, and another who cultivates gardening may suddenly find his choicest plants ruined by weather or accident, he who collects coins is free from such anxieties.

To those unacquainted with the subject it will be necessary to define the meaning of the word 'token' as applied to a coin. A token, then, is a coin which, owing to the deficiency of the currency, was, at the time of its being in circulation, given as a pledge

of payment or in token that the issuer would redeem it on demand - in short, a kind of metallic promissory note.

An eminent writer on this subject, after asking the question, "What is a token?" proceeds to answer it thus : "This is a question easily asked, but the word is so variously used that it is not so easily answered. A token, in money, is vulgarly understood to be a coin issued by a private individual above its real value ; but intrinsically a guarantee of the good faith of the issuer that he will pay the nominal value when demanded - in fact, a valid acknowledgment or sign of indebtedness. "By this rule," he continues, "the legal money of this country is only a series of tokens, excepting the gold coinage, which is issued at its standard value, and will not be received back at the price at which it was issued unless it preserve its original weight, being issued at its metal value and a small charge made for refining and coining. When gold is the standard all other metal currency must be regarded as tokens; it is impossible to have two standards, as there must be a constant fluctuation in the relative value of two or more metals, and the public would endeavor to make their payments in that metal in which the market price of the day would leave the greatest profit, though to the serious detriment of trade." * Tokens are not unknown in America, and an American authority describes them as "metallic coins issued and put in circulation without legal authority, generally of less intrinsic value than their market price" (+). In America, too, they have been familiarly denominated "metallic shin-plasters," and the term "shin-plaster" according to the same authority, besides being a name or cant term, for irredeemable or depreciated bank notes, such as those issued by the Confederate States during the recent rebellion, applies also to "money issued by individuals without legal authority." Tokens have, however, been issued in



this country, by authority, for Queen Elizabeth granted the Mayor and Corporation of the city of Bristol authority to issue a Corporation token. There were also the regal



farthing tokens of James I and Charles I, and in the early part of the present century the Banks of England and Ireland issued silver tokens by Government authority.



Many good collections of tokens have from time to time been made, and the collectors of the present day are by no means few, while they are increasing in number. The British Museum has, as might be expected, a very fine collection; and it is to be regretted that it should be necessary to keep it, in common with more valuable coins, so strictly under lock and key, and, therefore, unknown to the public at large. But it may be hoped that as the initiative has recently been taken in arranging medals for general inspection, coins and tokens will follow suit; there should, at any rate, be no difficulty about exhibiting the latter, and they would prove interesting to many. The topographer and genealogist will readily testify to the importance of the preservation of tokens, for it has been truly remarked that "coins tell but of princes and nationalities, not of the people;" but that "Traders' tokens, issued by the people, tell of the people, and become imperishable records of that most important estate of the realm" (@). Leaden tokens were in use as far back as the fifteenth century, and, together with others of tin and latten, circulated freely in the time of Queen Elizabeth.



The following interesting extract on the subject of leaden tokens is taken from an old account book of the parish of Chudleigh; it runs thus: "This Count made the XXIIII days of January in the year of our Lorde God MIIIIIXII by Nichas Balle markytman. Expences—Item pd. for A nyron with a print and for Lede And for smytyng of my tokense III s;" and there are two other entries for the years 1566 and 1567 given in the same book.

The brass and copper tokens commonly known as seventeenth century ones came into use upon the discontinuance of the Royal Farthing tokens of Charles I, about 1649 (the year 1648, old style, continued until 26th March, 1649, and some of the tokens are dated 1648); they were of the nominal value of a penny, halfpenny, and farthing respectively, of sizes varying from about that of the present shilling to that of a fourpenny piece, and of different shapes, some being octagonal, while others were square and even heart shaped, though the majority were round, and generally very thin. They were issued by corporations and traders all over the kingdom, and bore all



sorts of devices, but, as a rule, were of very poor design and execution, and after repeated proclamations declaring their illegality, they were finally suppressed by one bearing date the 15th of December, 1674. Of these tokens it has been estimated that about 20,000 varieties were issued, and they have been ably, though not altogether exhaustively dealt with, in a work involving great labour and of much merit, by the late Mr. Wm. Boyne (#), an author before alluded to.

- * Boyne's "Silver Tokens", 8vo., London, 1866, introduction, p.5.
- (+) M'Elrath's Dictionary, 8vo., New York, 1871.
- (@) Ll. Jewitt "Pro. Arch. Socy." Vol. 30, p. 25.
- (#) "Tokens issued in the Seventeenth Century," 8vo. London, 1858

In the next CTCC Journal issue, we will continue on with the next section of this introduction, and will conclude this next part with the introduction of the first coin to make its appearance in Samuels sequence, the "Leighton-Buzzard" Bedfordshire DH1.

May we strongly encourage you to send in any unique information you may have on this coin; any quality photos of a unique die variety; any metals other than copper, or a particularly spectacular example for publication in our Journal. This would greatly enhance our own efforts and would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,
Gregg Moore



FROM THE MAILBAG

Hi Mike---

Quick note for you to put in the Journal---in Tony Fox's article on the Essex tokens, his supposition about "Richard Bacon, Cockey Lane" was correct---Richard Bacon was not from Essex. He did put out a very nice token, however, and you will find it as Norfolk, Norwich 12 and 13. Bacon was a stationer and auctioneer, with a shop at 12 Cockey Lane, Norwich. He had no ties to Essex, other than the use of his blanks to make a few odd tokens.

Regards, Bill McKivor

Dear Michael,

I have heard several rumours circulating recently that claim Baldwin's are selling their entire stock of tokens in the May auction this year. Allow me to say, categorically, that this is not true.

However, we will be having a very useful group of eighteenth century tokens in the auction (2nd, 3rd and 4th May 2006). This will comprise somewhere in the region of 300 lots and will include some pieces from the old Baldwin stock. I am 80% sure that these will be offered on Tuesday 2nd May. Kind regards, Seth Freeman

The Braintree and Bocking Issues

(D&H Essex 3 - 3a, 4 – 4e)¹

Tony Fox (CTCC #439)

Braintree is about 11 miles from Chelmsford as the crow flies, and might fairly be described as the second town of central Essex (Figure 1). Bocking is more or less embedded within Braintree, but was nonetheless a separate parish. Famously, Bocking parish is a “peculiar”, belonging directly to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and exempt from the discipline of the local bishops, even after the general abolition of such arrangements in 1845.² Properly speaking, the parish of Bocking is to the north and the parish of Braintree to the south, but in common conversation, “Braintree” is now used for the whole town.

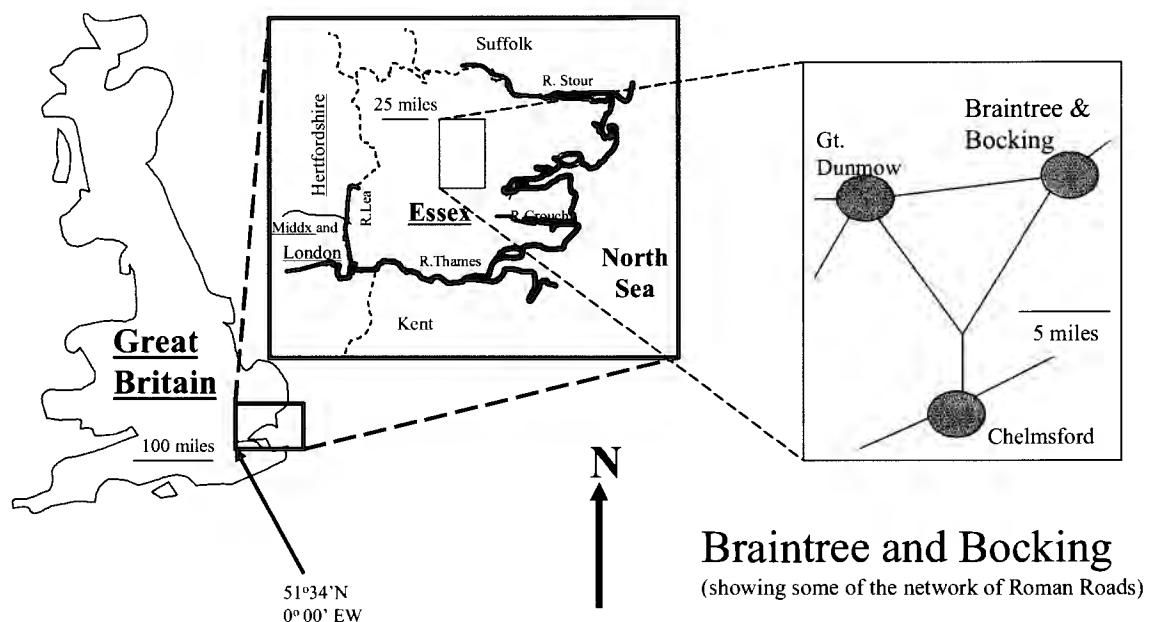


Figure 1. Braintree and Bocking in relation to Chelmsford and Dunmow.

The town sits on the Essex plain, about 150 feet above sea level, and the river passing through it is called the Brain (at least after it passes south, under the Roman Road). Being unwalled in Roman times, there has been no natural boundary to central Braintree and Bocking over the centuries (unlike, for example, Colchester). The town is now more or less round and about half the size of Chelmsford; a four-lane ring road joining the old Roman road at each end, now loops deeply to the South.

Roman roads are fairly straight in Essex, and mostly still in use. A pair of them lead to Braintree, eastwards from Great Dunmow, and North-north-east from Chelmsford. At this road junction, there was an undefended Roman settlement whose name is now lost;

many of its archaeological finds are now in the museum at Colchester castle. An even earlier, pre-Roman settlement at this site is also likely.^{3,4} The current parish church (St.Michael the Archangel) is built of re-used Roman materials; Essex lacks its own good building stone, and some Roman ruin(s) doubtless served as a quarry in the 13th century.⁵

Turning to the Condors themselves, the small number of issues exhibit homogeneity of design. The only major difference between the sets of Essex D&H nos. 3 & 4 is that a newly engraved reverse seems to have been needed. The only minor difference between them is the spatial relationship between the encircling legend and the standing female figure of “Hope”. D&H categorizes this as the relationship between the period (full stop) at the end of the reverse legend and Hope’s anchor. In fact, the whole word “COMMERCE” is shifted (for example, the left arm of the anchor in no.3 and no.4 point to the first and second uprights of the second letter ‘M’, respectively). Even though no.3 is rarer than no.4, we need not assume that the former is earlier than the latter in order to accept the evidence that there was a motivation to make the re-strike, or second edition, closely similar to the first.*

All of the obverses bear the legend “Braintree and Bocking Halfpence”, thus bearing witness to the symbiosis of the two parishes since before 1794, this being the date in the exergue; no other date is known. The same obverse appears on nos. 3 and 4 without change.* The date is in Roman numerals, and the last three characters (‘CIV’) are slightly larger and sag below the otherwise perfectly straight ‘MDCCX’, almost as if they were inserted last, perhaps some time after the coin had been initially designed pending knowing exactly which year it would be issued.

This obverse legend and date, encircles a building. This building may be intended to be the “Constitutional Club”, a seven-bay, three-story Georgian building, on Great Square, at one end of the High Street in Braintree. However, close inspection finds errors in detail and this may not be a secure attribution. Certainly, the building on D&H Essex nos. 3 and 4 does not appear on any other Essex issue (nor, for that matter, on any Skidmore issue, in contrast to the Wanstead no.2).

The standing female figure (“Hope” according to D&H) holds a large maritime anchor. Since Braintree and Bocking prospered on the wool and weaving trades (later including silk in the Cortauld works), this seems to be rather inappropriate. This same reverse appears at Chelmsford (Essex D&H no.6; a Wyon engraving according to D&H). Thus, this choice of reverse at Braintree probably represents economy of design, presumably on the part of the manufacturer (stated to be “Kempson” by D&H).*

One complexity is the proper chronological order of Essex nos. 3 and 4. Both carry the Goldsmiths legend on their edge (see below). The Braintree no.3, which is rarer and with the last letter of the legend and the period (full stop) crowded onto the point of the anchor, exhibits deterioration of the reverse die. A crack between the S of “Success” and the T of “To” (visible on the specimen in the 1967 reprint of D & H) grows larger on one of the author’s specimens, and a second crack appears between Hope’s left side and her

anchor in another specimen. It is possible that an early failure of this die drove the need for the reverse no.4, providing an opportunity for a better spacing of the legend, and the new die then also doing service also as Essex no.6 (Chelmsford). The alternative would be that the cracked reverse die had already done long service elsewhere, that this is not an early failure, and that the no.4 die was its replacement, or that the no.4 die eventually failed and that the no.3 die was immediately defective thereafter.*

Beyond this, the Braintree issues differ only in their edges. The edge legend “W GOLDSMITHS BRAINTREE ESSEX” appears on D&H no.3. Although this issuer has not been identified independently, there is little reason to doubt that local use was intended. The same edge appears on no.4, many of which are found quite worn, again, consistent with local use as currency.

No.4a has a plain edge, and may or may not be similarly intended for local use. All the other edges refer to places outside of Essex. London, Lancaster, Bristol, and South Shields, are all named.* Dally’s of Chichester (Sussex) also appears, and we came across this edge before on the Chelmsford D&H Essex #8c; it is also on D&H Sussex 15.⁸

One additional edge, on no. 4b is exceptional: “We promise to pay the bearer one cent”. Tom Fredette⁶ and Bill McKivor⁷ have taught us about trans-Atlantic Condors, and this one did not escape the attention of the latter.

*Graham Dyer, of the Royal Mint Museum, reviewed a draft of this article, for which the author is very grateful. While declining a share of the authorship, Mr. Dyer kindly provided some additional information and corrections. In particular:

- a) Mr. Dyer believes, from his own specimens, that D&H no.4 preceded no.3, and that not only are all the obverses of the same design but also that they all come from a single die.
- b) Mr. Dyer points out that an anchor has had a longstanding connotation, even for landlubbers, as a symbol of hope and constancy.
- c) William Goldsmith evidently established himself at Sudbury (Suffolk) before moving to Braintree in the late 1770s. At Sudbury, there was another token issuer named Thomas Goldsmith, and these may have been brothers.
- d) Mr. Dyer kindly provides an additional perspective with regard to the variety of edges, which seriously challenges my notion that these could indicate an intent to circulate them outside of Essex. The edge legends were put on the blanks before striking the flat surfaces. After this first stage of production, it is easily possible that blanks from different token orders could have got mixed up inside the factory. Since the Goldsmith legend appears on the huge majority of the D&H nos.3 and 4, we can presume that this is truly the intended edge. All the rest of the edges, being so rare,

can then be seen simply as errors. Evidently, a few wrong blanks getting into the production line still happens, even at today's Royal Mint.

Again, the author is very grateful to Mr. Dyer for his generosity with these comments. It had been anticipated that this would be the last article in this series, now that we have visited all of the Essex towns that issued Condors. However, Mr. Dyer's last point is doubtless right. The question now arises, is this true for all the edge varieties in Essex ?

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8. Bill McKivor has also tracked down the 'Richard Bacon, Cocky Lane' edge (D&H Essex, Chelmsford 8 and Colchester 10a) to Norfolk. This edge, too, also appears at Chichester as D&H Sussex 15c.

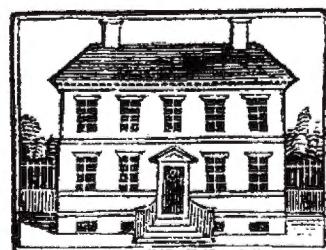




Figure 2. The reverse of Essex D&H no.3 (left hand two specimens), showing the last letter of the legend and period (full stop) crowding onto the point of Hope's anchor. The die cracks are arrowed. The Essex no.4 is shown at right for comparison.



Figure 3. The obverses for the three specimens shown above. They are identical.



Ex Libris

The following is a listing of catalogues in the collection of the CTCC Library not previously listed in the journal. For a complete listing please refer to the CTCC website at <http://conderclub.homestead.com/index.html>

Catalogues:

Baldwin's Auctions #28 9 October 2001 (Soho Mint proofs including 9 lots of tokens, the Patrick Finn library) PRL

Baldwin's Auctions #30 8 May 2002 (5 token lots from the G. S. Hopkins collection) no PRL

Baldwin's Auctions #31 15 October 2002 (65 lots of tokens) no PRL

Baldwin's Auctions #38 4 October 2004 (76 lots 17th century tokens, 77 lots 18th century tokens, and 3 lots 19th century tokens) no PRL

Dix, Noonan, Webb #53 13 March 2002 (the Peter Preston-Morley Library of token books – Part 1) PRL

Dix, Noonan, Webb #55 8 October 2002 (the Norman Brodie Collection of Scottish tokens, tickets and passes – 470 lots) PRL

Dix, Noonan, Webb #56 11 December 2002 (the Eileen Judson Collection of British tokens (mostly 17th century) and the Dora Harris Collection of London 17th century tokens) PRL

Dix, Noonan, Webb #57 19 March 2003 (Eileen Judson Part II – 106 lots 17th century, 57 lots 18th century, the Roy Raines collection of 17th century tokens – 123 lots, tokens from the stock-in-trade of Barry Greenaway – 47 lots of 17th, 18th and 19th century tokens and 76 additional lots of mostly 18th century from other properties) PRL

Dix, Noonan, Webb #58 24 & 25 June 2003 (27 lots 17th century, 15 lots 18th and 20 lots 19th and 20th centuries) no PRL

Dix, Noonan, Webb #61 17 March 2004 (95 lots various British tokens) PRL

Dix, Noonan, Webb #62 30 June 2004 (88 lots of British tokens, tickets and passes) PRL

Dix, Noonan, Webb #63 7 October 2004 (David McDonald Collection of Scottish tokens – 18 lots 18th century and the Dr. David L. Spence collection of 18th century tokens – 239 lots) PRL

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Dix, Noonan, Webb #65 16 March 2005 (Robert Hogarth 17th century tokens – 139 lots, David Litrenta 18th century – 259 lots and 93 lots various tokens from other properties) PRL

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Dix, Noonan, Webb #67A 29 September 2005 (Dr. David Spence 18th century trade tokens (Part II: Middlesex – Yorkshire) PRL

Dix, Noonan, Webb # 68A 15 December 2005 (30m lots tickets and passes, 46 lots 17th century tokens from the Tony Coker and Geoffrey Kay collections, 320 additional lots of quality 18th century tokens from unnamed collections.)

Harold Welch, Librarian

What I'm Reading

Tom Fredette

A greater appreciation of the late Eighteenth and early Nineteenth century tokens which we collect can be obtained by considering not only the social and economic conditions in which they were born and flourished, but the historial context of this period as well. Of course, token issuers and merchants weren't concerned about how history would receive their efforts, but we can be interested in that history now.

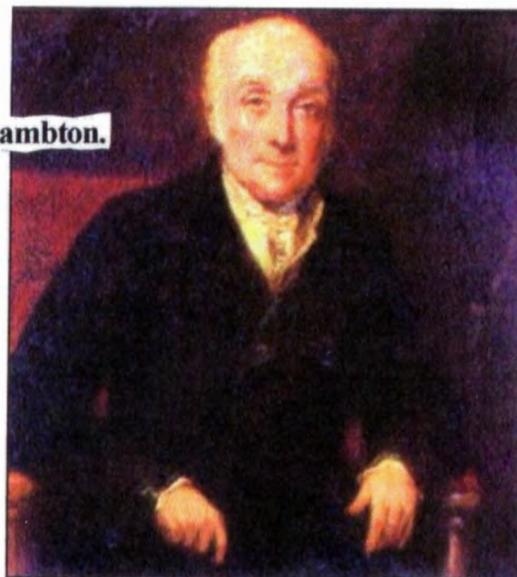
The book which is the subject of this review has a lot to say to us about that point in British history when this nation was breaking away from the narrow pursuit of trade and commerce with nations friendly to it, and embarking upon Empire - the task of establishing dominion over as much of the known world as it possibly could. This short book of non-fiction will focus the reader on that idea and point him (or her) to India at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

By 1800, India had long been a trading partner for the British Isles, but not much was known about its land, its geography or its resources. The Great Arc by John Keay tells of the first attempts at acquiring this knowledge and then of the great work of two men who eventually conquered many formidable obstacles to map the length and breadth of the sub-continent.

To create this map many years of precise measurements were to be made and then coordinated with a line of longitude which was called "the great arc." By the time they were done, and newer science had made their work old-fashioned and obsolete, Everest had been documented as the world's highest mountain and would be named after one of the men.



William Lambton.



The Great Trigonometrical Survey Of India

The Great Arc is subtitled "The Dramatic Tale of How India was Mapped and Everest was Named." Much of the "drama" of the author's work comes, as one would expect, from the research he did and his presentation of the tale. He tells a good story well. More comes from the realization on the part of the reader of the hard, hard, back-breaking work, the disease, the weather, the wildlife, civil strife and other obstacles William Lambton and his crew faced and which were later faced by George Everest, although to a somewhat lesser degree. We live in an era of satellites and global positioning instruments. Lambton and his workers spent much of their time lost on purpose and using their surveying skills to "find themselves" each time.

Proceeding up the length and width of the Indian subcontinent, "The Great Trigonometric Survey" advanced far enough north to be able to sight the Himalayas. However, the surveyors did not know what they were seeing. Over many months and years, and using the most advanced surveying instruments of their time (primitive by today's standards) it was eventually determined that Everest was the highest point on Earth above sea-level. For his part in and contributions toward this discovery the mountain was named after Sir George Everest.

There is more, of course, but the question for us as collectors of late Eighteenth and early Nineteenth century tokens is how does this story help us appreciate our hobby more? One thing it does do is reveal the curiosity, ingenuity, resourcefulness and dedication that the issuers of our tokens possessed. Many of the token designs show us the strong-minded personalities of the leaders of that time who were taking Great Britain out of its insular pursuits and forcing it into a world-wide influence.

William Lambton and George Everest worked on and worked out a problem which even though it seemed immense, was solvable to them and they did it without computers. As collectors, learning about such accomplishments through books like The Great Arc (HarperCollinsPublishers. 182 pp., \$13.00) helps us see more of the meaning behind the hobby and tokens we share.



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